UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/916
S/1998/424
26 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 10 and 81
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 24 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of a letter addressed to you by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on the subject of the dangerous development of tensions in South Asia as a result of the nuclear tests and other provocative moves by India.

I would request that the present letter, and its annex, may be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

98-14373 (E) 260598

/...

ANNEX

Letter dated 23 May 1998 from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Secretary-General

I am sure that you have been following the developments in our region since the nuclear tests conducted by India on 11 and 13 May 1998.

Before the dust settled at Pokhran, the Indian nuclear test site, New Delhi raised demands that "Islamabad should realize the change in the geo-strategic situation in the region" and threatened that India will "deal firmly and strongly with Pakistan".

Thus it is clear that overt Indian nuclear weaponization has seriously upset the strategic balance in the region and emboldened India to make a naked assertion of her hostile intentions towards Pakistan.

In the background lie the two main planks of the agenda of the ruling Bharatia Janata Party (BJP). Long before it came to power the party has set for itself the goals of (1) overt nuclear weaponization and (2) resolution of the Kashmir problem by use of force. One has been accomplished; the other is now being actualized. The seriousness with which BJP has so far pursued its anti-Pakistan agenda leaves no room for complacency.

India's belligerency has assumed a chilling dimension with the threat of nuclear blackmail against Pakistan on Kashmir voiced by the Indian leadership.

On 20 May 1998, the Indian Home Minister stated that "we have decided to take action against Pakistan and to take a step forward to respond. Our nuclear explosion has created a situation similar to that caused after the fall of Dhaka". He further stated that Pakistan "will be crushed without false pity".

New Delhi feels secure in its belief that the work will signal the same helplessness towards her resort to use of force for a final resolution of the Kashmir problem as it has shown earlier in the face of overt Indian nuclear weaponization.

In pursuance of my policy for promotion of peace and stability in the region, I had taken an initiative for the resumption of dialogue with a view to achieving a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute and improvement of relations with India. The Indian leaders have, instead, responded with atomic tests and threatened to use nuclear weapons. Following upon that we are now faced with threats of provocative actions. This is in keeping with the Indian track record of aggression against Pakistan. Consequently, the tension in the region has escalated to an alarming proportion.

At this critical juncture I deem it necessary to draw your attention to the magnitude of the threat posed to our security by the aggressive Indian agenda.

(Signed) Muhammad Nawaz SHARIF